

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-11 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-4 and 6-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,216,675 to Bennett ("Bennett") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,445,130 to Brummer et al. ("Brummer") and U.S. Patent No. 5,251,603 to Watanabe et al. ("Watanabe"). This rejection is respectfully traversed as follows.

It is believed that the combination of Bennett, Brummer and Watanabe does not teach or suggest all of the elements of independent claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that Bennett does not teach or suggest an elongated body that has at least one conical end portion longitudinally spaced from end couplings connected to the pipe. In addition, Bennett is not understood to teach or suggest that the end couplings have a substantially conical shape. Brummer and Watanabe fail to make up for the deficiencies of Bennett. Neither Brummer nor Watanabe discloses an elongated body that has at least one conical end portion longitudinally spaced from end couplings connected to the pipe or that the end couplings have a substantially conical shape. For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 and the claims that depend therefrom are patentable over Bennett in view of Brummer and Watanabe.

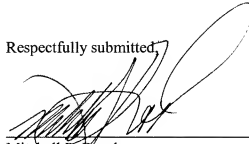
Applicant notes that the Office Action dated April 23, 2009 expressly referenced the conical structure recited in independent claim 1. *See* April 23, 2009 Office Action at 8 ("the specificity found in Applicant's specification particularly the sectional finned structure and the conical structure with member 11, 12 and 17 are not found in the claim language").

Conclusion

It is believed that all objections and rejections in the application have been addressed and that the present application is in condition for allowance. A favorable reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is solicited. If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this and concurrent replies to charge payment (or credit any overpayment) to Deposit Account No. 50-2298 for any additional required fees.

Dated: September 15, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mitchell P. Brook', is written over a horizontal line.

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